

OSU English Professor Says Students In College Write Better, Spell Worse

College students of today spell worse, read more and write better in general than those of 25 years ago, the chairman of the English department at Oregon State university says.

Dr. Herbert B. Nelson rates knowledge of formal grammar "about the same."

Students of today use the language better in most cases, because there is more emphasis on writing, but tremendous differences exist among students in their knowledge of English, he reported.

In 1959, Dr. Nelson gave the same English placement test to new OSU freshmen that was used in 1943. Scores were from 10 to 15 percent better than in 1943. He attributed the improvement to significant advances in English teaching in Oregon high schools.

Spelling Fails to Improve
Some improvements have been observed during the past five years too, but not in spelling, Nelson emphasized. Students simply don't spell as well as they used to, he insists, mostly because of lack of emphasis on the subject in the schools.

Honors programs in many high schools and almost all colleges and universities are helping to upgrade English training, Nelson added.

Students are better read when they enter college now than ever before, he said in reviewing his nearly 40 years of teaching. They may not have read as many of the old classics, but they have done more reading, including some excellent modern literature, Nelson added.

Suggests Postponement
Students who have trouble with English are encouraged by Nelson to do some "home work"—self-study—before entering college, perhaps even postponing enrollment for a quarter or two until they feel prepared.

He is author of a self-learning English essentials handbook that is now in its seventh printing. The book, he says, was written "for the student who wants to learn and who is not waiting to be taught."

A person can learn a lot of English by himself with "desire and diligence," Nelson maintains.

STUDENTS VISIT HERE
Miss Melinda Carlson of Emmett was a weekend guest of Sherrie Glenn in the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Marion Glenn. The girls are roommates while attending Boise Junior college in the Idaho capital city.

ENROUTE TO CALIFORNIA
Jonette Tyler of Pittsburgh, Pa., left Tuesday for California after spending a week as a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Frell Blair and Sharon. Enroute to Nyssa, she had spent some time visiting Boyd Blair at Provo, Utah.

VISITORS FROM NAMPA
Sunday dinner guests in the home of Mr. and Mrs. George Mitchell were her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ross; their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Ross, all of Nampa.

SUNDAY DINNER GUESTS
Mr. and Mrs. George McKee were Sunday dinner guests of her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Al Law of Boise.

last Thursday morning from the Dry Lake area. Mr. and Mrs. Baxter, their son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Bert Schmidt of Madras, left Friday morning for Blackfoot to attend a wedding reception for Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Heap who were married recently in the LDS temple at Idaho Falls. The Baxters, Mr. and Mrs. Schmidt will return during the first part of next week.

Mrs. Effie Nielsen visited frequently during the past week with her son, Clifford, who underwent major surgery last Thursday morning at Malheur Memorial hospital. He is reported to be recovering satisfactorily and will soon return to his home to convalesce.

Farmerette Club Meets
A regular meeting of the Farmerette club was held Wednesday afternoon, May 19, at the home of Mrs. Robert Shaw with Mrs. Eva Maine as co-hostess. There were 15 present at this session. Yearbooks for 1965-66 were discussed and planned and other routine business conducted. Following the meeting, the hostesses served refreshments. The meeting was presided over by Mrs. Leona Bryan, vice president, in the absence of Mrs. Gary Betts, president.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Maine and baby of Elk City, Idaho, have been visiting at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Omar Maine.

Shower Fetes Mrs. Storey

A pink and blue shower, sponsored by the Farmerette club and ladies of the community, was held Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. J. Burton for Mrs. Kathy Storey. A good attendance was reported and Mrs. Storey received a number of useful and lovely gifts. Two games were played, with prizes being won by Mrs. LeRoy Howard, Mrs. Delbert Wilson, Mrs. Storey and Mrs. George Wilson. Mrs. Burton served cake and punch at the close of the afternoon. She was assisted by Mrs. Mike McKague.

Ralph Baxter returned home

Figures for Fertilizer Show Increased Use

Farmers took advantage of the good weather during the first three months of this year and not only got their crops in early but increased their use of fertilizer as well.

Inspection fee reports of the Oregon Department of Agriculture for that period indicate farmers used 23 percent more fertilizer than for the same period

VISIT PARENTS IN NYSSA

Jack McKee and Dale Taylor of The Dalles were Saturday visitors and overnight guests of the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George McKee.

a year ago.

Total tonnage figures on inspections of fertilizers, agricultural limes and minerals for the first quarter of this year were 113,337 compared to 91,972 tons for the first quarter in 1964.

SENIOR CITIZENS TO HEAR COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVE

A meeting of the Senior Citizens' club will be held at 10:30 tomorrow morning (Friday) at Faith Lutheran church. Those attending are asked to take a sack lunch.

Speaker of the day will be Dean McDonald from Treasure Valley Community college who will speak on the role of the college and community and the relation of older residents to the institution.

SUFFERS BROKEN ARM

Newell Heights—While riding her horse Friday evening, Renee Hardman reached to lift a wire, and unfortunately it was a hot one. Renee is the 12-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Hardman.

Both horse and rider were shocked; the animal jumped and Renee fell off, breaking an arm. She was taken by her mother to a doctor who set the bone and at this time she is reported to be getting along nicely.

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